

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection of the claims as being obvious by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0037168 to Brabson, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,473,404 to Kaplan, et al.

One of the features of independent claim 17 is that each interface includes means for detecting the selection of that interface, and means for modifying *on the selection of the selected one interface* the value sent to the first node. The Examiner cites Kaplan as allegedly showing these features.

However, Kaplan does *not* have a means for modifying, as claimed. In claim 17, the means for modifying does so "on the selection of the selected one interface"; that is, it modifies the value in response to the selection of the relevant interface. In Kaplan, it is possible for a user to modify the values from the present, as acknowledged by the Examiner. However, there is *no* teaching that the values should be so modified in the interface when the interface is selected.

Accordingly, the Examiner has failed to identify the means for modifying the value sent to the first node, where the means for modifying the value does so on the selection of the interface. Neither Kaplan nor Brabson teaches such a feature.

In combination with the features laid out in part (g) of claim 17, these features allow the advantages set out in the International Preliminary Examination Report to be achieved; namely, that selection of an interface will preferentially lock the routing of packets to that interface, thus stopping successive packets taking plural routes. Accordingly, claim 17 cannot be obvious, because the combination of Kaplan and Brabson does not teach the claimed invention.

Similar arguments apply to claim 30. The relevant feature in this claim is part (e), the modifying of the value in the selected interface. In Kaplan, there is a teaching that the user can override the preset default values. However, there is **no** teaching that the value returned by the selected interface should be modified; it is merely a general teaching that values can be modified by a user. As such, the combination of Kaplan and Brabson does not teach the modification of the value sent by the selected interface to the first node, and so the combination cannot render claim 30 obvious.

The claims dependent from claims 17 and 30 are non-obvious for the same reasons.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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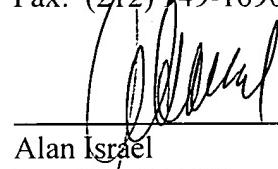
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